

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 OMB-01 AID-10

DPW-01 RSR-01 EUR-10 IO-03 (ADP) W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6208

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15066

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR AUGUST 20, ALSO SUMMARIZING THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 13-19

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON AUG 20 INFO USDAO AOSOP-OR SAOON
USSAG NAKHOM PHANOM

QUOTE

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1. SUMMARY: OVERALL MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR IV
DECLINED DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 15-21. THE FOCUS OF
ACTIVITY SHIFTED TO DINH TUONG PROVINCE, NOTABLY CAI LAY
DISTRICT. RF TROOPS SCORED A NOTABLE VICTORY IN VINH BINH
ON AUGUST 19, RESULTING IN 65 VC KILLED. THE GVN IN THE
DELTA HAS MOVED TO EFFECT CONTROL OF THE RICE MARKET AND
BEGIN ALLOCATIONS TO TROOPS AND POLICE. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13-19,
MR IV REPORTS 194 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS (DOWN 25 PERCENT
FROM 258 THE PREVIOUS WEEK), INCLUDING 19 GROUND ATTACKS,
146 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 25 HARRASEMENTS, AND 4 INCIDENTS OF
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SABOTAGE. CORPS REPORTS 179 GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS (AS

COMPARED WITH 203 THE PRECEDING WEEK). CORPS REPORTS 128 GVN TROOPS KILLED (166 THE PREVIOUS WEEK), 609 WOUNDED, 37 MISSING, 5 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS LOST, AND 73 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 362 VC KILLED FOR TYL WEEK (392 THE PREVIOUS WEEK), 9 CAPTURED, 18 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SEIZED, AND 165 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED. ALL INDICATORS SHOW REDUCED MILITARY ACTIVITY ON BOTH SIDES, WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF GVN ARTILLERY CONSUMPTION, WHICH INCREASED. THE FOCUS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY SHIFTED TO DINH TUONG PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK. IN CHUONG THIEN, THE VC/NVA ARE BELIEVED TO BE REGROUPING.

(2B) FOR THE 24-HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0600 AUGUST 18, MR IV REPORTS 30 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS, INCLUDING 5 GROUND ATTACKS, 20 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 4 HARRASSMENTS, AND ONE ACT OF TERROR. CORPS REPORTS 22 GVN TROOPS KILLED, 98 WOUNDED AND 19 MISSING. IN ADDITION, FIVE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED. THREE CREW-SERVED WEAPONS WERE LOST, AND 30 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. CORPS CLAIMS 47 VC/NVA KILLED, 1 CAPTURED, AND 3 SUSPECTS DETAINED. ONE CREW-SERVED WEAPON WAS SEIZED, AND 22 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. DINH TUONG WAS THE FOCUS OF ACTION, WITH 7 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS, FOLLOWED BY KIEN GIANG WITH 6 INCIDENTS. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN DINH TUONG RESULTED IN 9 GVN TROOPS WOUNDED AND 11 MISSING. WEAPONS LOST IN THE ENCOUNTER INCLUDED ONE 60MM MORTAR, ONE 30 CAL MACHINE GUN, 3 M79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS, AND 14 M16S. IN BA XUYEN, A GRENADE THROWN IN A PAGODA KILLED 5 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED 4.

(C) FOR THE 24 HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0600 AUGUST 20, MR IV REPORTS 23 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS, INCLUDING 2 GROUND ATTACKS, 16 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 4 HARRASSMENTS AND ONE INCIDENT OF SABOTAGE. CORPS REPORTS 12 GVN TROOPS KILLED AND 83 WOUNDED. CORPS CLAIMS 104 VC KILLED, ONE CAPTURED, 3 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SEIZED, AND 42 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED, IN SOTHEAST VINH LONG, A VC GROUND ATTACK RESULTED IN 4 GVN TROOPS KILLED, 9 WOUNDED, 2 MISSING, ONE CIVILIAN KILLED, 3 M16S LOST, AND ONE RADIO LOST.

3. GVN ACTIVITY: MR IV COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL NGHI HAS ESTABLISHED A RICE QUOTA SYSTEM, BY PROVINCE, TO MEET GVN
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RICE STOCK NEEDS IN TWO PHASES, BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER. A SYSTEM OF PERMITS TO CONTROL SHIPMENTS FROM THE DELTA PROVINCES TO SAIGON AND TO REDUCE BLACK MARKETEERING AND TRADING WITH THE VIET CONG AND WITH CAMBODIA AS WELL AS HOLD DOWN THE PRICE WAS INSTITUTED AT A MEETING WITH ALL DELTA PROVINCE CHIEFS ON AUGUST 18 (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS). BECAUSE THE PRICE OF RICE IN III AND IV CORPS IS LOWER THAN IN I AND II CORPS (ROUGHLY VC\$13,000 PER 100 KILOS,

AS OPPOSED TO ROUGHLY VN\$20,000), THE GVN RICE ALLOCATION IN THE NORTH WILL BE 45 KILOS PER SOLDIER, POLICEMAN, RF OR PF TROOPER, 75 LIMITED TO 21 KILOS IN MR III AND IV. IN MR IV, THE POLICY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT, IF THE PRICE OF RICE IS VC\$13,000 PER 100 KILOS FOR LESS, THE GVN WILL ALLOT VN\$3000 PER ELIGIBLE PERSON, BUT IF THE PRICE RISES ABOVE VN\$13,000, THE GVN WILL ISSUE 21 KILOS PER PERSON DIRECTLY FROM ITS OWN STOCKS.

4. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: (A) IN DINH TUONG, THE PRINCIPAL SCENE OF VIET CONG ACTIVITY DURING LAST WEEK, OUR VICE CONSUL REPORTS THAT TWO OUTPOSTS, BOTH IN NORTHWEST CAI LAY DISTRICT, WERE SIMULTANEOUSLY OVERRUN ON AUGUST 16 AT 1800 (AT XS146594 AND XS153578). THE TWO ATTACKS RESULTED IN 12 GVN TROOPS WOUNDED, 23 MISSING AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES. NO VC/NVA LOSSES WERE REPORTED. ON AUGUST 16 OR 17, THE 403 RF BATTALION CONTACTED AN ESTIMATED VC BATTALION WHILE RESUPPLYING AN OUTPOST AT TAN HIEP (XS285555), WHICH RESULTED IN 7 GVN TROOPS KILLED, 25 WOUNDED AND 8 MISSING. THE GVN CLAIMS THE ENGAGEMENT RESULTED IN 11 VC KILLED. THE NVA Z-15 REGIMENT HAS REPORTEDLY MOVED FROM TRI PHAP VILLAGE TO HAU MY VILLAGE IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE PROVINCE.

(B) THE PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE IN VINH BINH REPORTS A MAJOR GVN VICTORY ON AUGUST 19 AT APPROXIMATELY XR364844, RESULTING IN 65 VC KILLED, AND THE CAPTURE OF 2 M60 MORTARS, 2 M79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS, 12 M16 RIFLES, 3 AK47 RIFLES, AND THREE RADIOS, WITH JUST 6 GVN TROOPS KILLED AND 12 WOUNDED. THE OPERATION FOLLOWED GVN INTELLIGENCE THAT THE VC WERE PLANNING TO ATTACK TAP NGAI VILLAGE, TIEN CAN DISTRICT. AT 0015 ON AUGUST 20, AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT AN RF OUTPOST IN CENTRAL VINH BINH. AS OF EARLY MORNING AUGUST 20, CONTACT HAD NOT YET BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED.

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(C) THE 8-B NVA REGIMENT HAS MOVED FROM CHUONG THIEN INTO ADJACENT KIEN BINH DISTRICT, KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, LATE IN THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13-10, ACCORDING TO THE KIEN BINH DISTRICT CHIEF. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH GVN REPORTS FROM CHUONG THIEN THAT VC/NVA UNITS THERE ARE REGROUPING.

(D) THE VINH LONG VICE CONSUL REPORTS A NEW RD CADRE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO REMIND THE POPULACE THAT THE WAR IS STILL ON, IN THE POLITICAL DOMAIN, WITH THE SLOGANS, "EACH PERSON HAS ONE VOTE TO BRING PEACE," AND "IF THE NATION WINS-WE ALL SURVIVE; IF THE COMMUNISTS WIN-WE LOSE EVERYTHING. SIGNED LEHMANN
UNQUOTE MARTIN

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